

CLAIMS

1. A method for retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality 5 of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word, comprising:

storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those 10 sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of retrieval objects; and

including a first position deriving step of deriving the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said 15 retrieving object in said virtual space, a retrieving object map generation step of generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step, a second position deriving step of deriving 20 position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and retrieval object retrieving step of retrieving the retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the position 25 derived at said second position deriving step with reference to said retrieval object map.

2. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller distance to a position derived at said second position deriving step in said virtual space 5 with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending order.

3. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line 10 connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said second position deriving step and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said retrieving object in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space, with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending 15 order.

4. A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said retrieval object is data including said expressing word, and said method comprises expression word 20 extracting step of extracting said expression word from said retrieval object and expression word correspondence step of storing said retrieval object with correspondence with the expression word extracted in said expression word extracting step.

25

5. A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said retrieval objects are stored with attribute

information indicative of attributes of said retrieval object,
said method comprises second retrieval object retrieving
step of retrieving retrieval object corresponding to attribute
information matching with a given attribute information among
5 said plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the given
attribute information,
said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the
retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image
of said retrieving word among retrieval objects retrieved at
10 said second retrieval object retrieving step.

6. A system for retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word, comprising:

expression word map storage means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, 20 retrieval object storage means for storing said plurality of retrieving objects, first position deriving means for deriving the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, a retrieving object map generation means for generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual 25 space on the basis of position derived at said first position

deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and retrieval object retrieving means for retrieving the retrieval object of sensuous

5 image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said retrieval object map.

10 7. A retrieving system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller distance to a position derived at said second position deriving means in said virtual space with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending order.

15

8. A retrieving system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said

20 second position deriving means and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said retrieving object in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space, with reference to said retrieval object map.

25 9. A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein said retrieval object is data including said expressing word, and

5 said system comprises expression word extracting means for extracting said expression word from said retrieval object and expression word correspondence means for storing said retrieval object with correspondence with the expression word extracted in said expression word extracting means.

10. A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims
6 to 9, wherein said retrieval objects are stored with attribute
information indicative of attributes of said retrieval object,
10 said system comprises second retrieval object retrieving
means for retrieving retrieval object corresponding to attribute
information matching with a given attribute information among
said plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the given
attribute information,
15 said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the
retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image
of said retrieving word among retrieval objects retrieved by
said retrieval object retrieving means.

20 11. A retrieving program for retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word,

for a computer comprising expression word map storage
25 means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality
of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval
objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association

of those sensuous images are arranged, retrieval object storage means for storing said plurality of retrieving objects, said program making to execute a process realized by first position deriving means for deriving the expression word 5 corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, a retrieving object map generation means for generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieving objects on said virtual space on the basis of position 10 derived at said first position deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and retrieval object retrieving means for retrieving the retrieving object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image 15 of said retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said retrieval object map.

12. A method for generating a retrieval object map to be used 20 for a method of retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word using said retrieval object map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects 25 on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of

expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of retrieval objects with correspondence to said expression words;

5 and

including a first position deriving step of deriving the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, and a retrieving object map generation step of generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

15 13. A retrieval object map generating method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said retrieval object is stored with correspondence with a retrieval object describing document as descriptive text for said retrieval object and describing sensuous image of said retrieval object and a supplementary document including said expression word supplementing said retrieval object descriptive document,

20 said method comprises expression word extracting step of extracting said expression word from said retrieval object descriptive document and said supplementary document corresponding to said retrieval object with reference to said expression word map,

25 said first position deriving step derives the position

of the expression word extracted at said expression word extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

14. A retrieval object map generating method as set forth
5 in claim 13, wherein each of said retrieval objects is stored
with correspondence with an attribute information indicative
of said retrieval object in addition to said retrieval object
descriptive object and said supplementary document.

10 15. A system for generating a retrieval object map to be used for a system of retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word using said retrieval object map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

15

expression word storage means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, retrieval object storage means for storing said plurality of retrieval objects with correspondence to said expression words, a first position deriving means for deriving the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, and a retrieving object map generation

means for generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

5 16. A retrieval object map generating system as set forth
in claim 15, wherein said retrieval object storage means stores
each of said retrieval object with correspondence with a
retrieval object describing document as descriptive text for
said retrieval object and describing sensuous image of said
10 retrieval object and a supplementary document including said
expression word supplementing said retrieval object descriptive
document,

15 said system comprises expression word extracting means
for extracting said expression word from said retrieval object
descriptive document and said supplementary document
corresponding to said retrieval object with reference to said
expression word map,

20 said first position deriving means derives the position
of the expression word extracted at said expression word
extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

17. A retrieval object map generating system as set forth in claim 16, wherein each of said retrieval objects is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative of said retrieval object in addition to said retrieval object descriptive object and said supplementary document.

18. A method for retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of a given retrieving word, comprising:

5 storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of graphic images; and

10 including a first position deriving step of deriving the expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, a graphic image map generation step of generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic 15 images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step, a second position deriving step of deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and graphic image retrieving step of retrieving the graphic image of sensuous 20 image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving step with reference to said graphic image map.

25 19. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said graphic image retrieving step retrieves the graphic image at a position having smaller distance to a position derived

at said second position deriving step in said virtual space with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

20. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 18, wherein
5 said graphic image retrieving step retrieves the graphic image
at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line
connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said
second position deriving step and an origin of said virtual
space and a straight line connecting a position of said graphic
10 image in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space,
with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

21. A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims
18 to 20, wherein each of said graphic image is stored with
15 correspondence with an attribute information indicative of
attribute of said graphic image,

20 said method comprises second graphic image retrieving step of retrieving graphic image corresponding to attribute information matching with a given attribute information among said plurality of graphic images on the basis of the given attribute information,

25 said graphic image retrieving step retrieves the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among graphic images retrieved at said second graphic image retrieving step.

22. A system for retrieving graphic image of sensuous image

meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of a given retrieving word, comprising:

expression word map storage means for storing an expression

5 word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing
sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending
upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged,
graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic
images, first position deriving means for deriving the
10 expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position
of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image
in said virtual space, a graphic image map generation means
for generating a graphic image map arranging said respective
graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position
15 derived at said first position deriving means, a second position
deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word
on said virtual space with reference to said expression word,
and graphic image retrieving means for retrieving the graphic
image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said
20 retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis
of the position derived at said second position deriving means
with reference to said graphic image map.

23. A retrieving system as set forth in claim 22, wherein
25 said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic image
at a position having smaller distance to a position derived
at said second position deriving means in said virtual space

with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

24. A retrieving system as set forth in claim 22, wherein
said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic image
5 at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line
connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said
second position deriving means and an origin of said virtual
space and a straight line connecting a position of said graphic
image in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space,
10 with reference to said graphic image map.

25. A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims
22 to 24, wherein said graphic images are stored with attribute
information indicative of attributes of said graphic image,
15 said system comprises second graphic image retrieving
means for retrieving graphic image corresponding to attribute
information matching with a given attribute information among
said plurality of graphic images on the basis of the given
attribute information,
20 said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic
image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said
retrieving word among graphic images retrieved at said second
graphic image retrieving means.

25 26. A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims
22 to 25, which is applied for retrieval of hair style graphic
images expressing hair styles.

27. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 26, wherein
said virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a
first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis,
5 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
smart as quantified on the other direction
 the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine
 c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
10 femininity as quantified on the other direction

28. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 26, wherein
said virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a
first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis,
15 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
smart as quantified on the other direction
 the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy
 c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
20 light as quantified on the other direction

29. A graphic image retrieving program for retrieving graphic
image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving
word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of a given
25 retrieving word, comprising:
 for a computer comprising expression word map storage
means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality

of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic images,

5 said program making to execute a process realized by first
position deriving means for deriving the expression word
corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression
word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual
space, a graphic image map generation means for generating a
10 graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on
said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said
first position deriving means, a second position deriving means
for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual
space with reference to said expression word, and graphic image
15 retrieving means for retrieving the graphic image of sensuous
image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among
a plurality of graphic images on the basis of the position derived
at said second position deriving means with reference to said
graphic image map.

20

30. A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis
25 of given retrieving word,

a storing expression word map, in which a plurality of expression words expressing sensuous images of hair style

graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the sensuous images,

5 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
smart as quantified on the other direction

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
femininity as quantified on the other direction.

31. A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of 15 hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis of given retrieving word,

a storing expression word map, in which a plurality of expression words expressing sensuous images of hair style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the sensuous images,

25 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
smart as quantified on the other direction.

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy
c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of

32. A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis of given retrieving word,

5 a storing graphic image map, in which a plurality of hair style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the sensuous images,

10 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of 15 smart as quantified on the other direction

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of femininity as quantified on the other direction.

20 33. A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis of given retrieving word,

25 a storing graphic image map, in which a plurality of hair style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to

light as quantified on the other direction.

said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the sensuous images,

5 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of smart as quantified on the other direction

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of light as quantified on the other direction

10 34. A method for generating a graphic image map to be used for a method of retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images to be retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word using said graphic image map, in which a plurality 15 of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

20 storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of graphic images with correspondence to said expression words; and

25 including a first position deriving step of deriving the expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, and a graphic image map generation step

of generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

5 35. A graphic image map generating method as set forth in
claim 34, wherein said graphic image is stored with
correspondence with a graphic image describing document as
descriptive text for said graphic image and describing sensuous
image of said graphic image and a supplementary document
10 including said expression word supplementing said graphic image
descriptive document,

15 said method comprises expression word extracting step
of extracting said expression word from said graphic image
descriptive document and said supplementary document
corresponding to said graphic image with reference to said
expression word map,

20 said first position deriving step derives the position
of the expression word extracted at said expression word
extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

36.

35. A graphic image map generating method as set forth in
claim 35, wherein each of said graphic images is stored with
correspondence with an attribute information indicative of said
graphic image in addition to said graphic image descriptive
25 object and said supplementary document.

37. A system for generating a graphic image map to be used

for a system of retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images to be graphic images on the basis of a given retrieving word using said graphic image map, in which a plurality 5 of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

expression word storage means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic images with correspondence to said expression words, a first position deriving means for deriving the expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, and a graphic image map generation means for generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

38. A graphic image map generating system as set forth in
claim 37, wherein said graphic image is stored with
correspondence with a graphic image describing document as
25 descriptive text for said graphic image and describing sensuous
image of said graphic image and a supplementary document
including said expression word supplementing said graphic image

descriptive document,

5 said system comprises expression word extracting step of extracting said expression word from said graphic image descriptive document and said supplementary document corresponding to said graphic image with reference to said expression word map,

said first position deriving step derives the position of the expression word extracted at said expression word extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

10

39. A graphic image map generating system as set forth in
claim 38, wherein each of said graphic images is stored with
correspondence with an attribute information indicative of said
graphic image in addition to said graphic image descriptive
15 object and said supplementary document.